From: Mike Prettyman
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 5:41pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom it may concern,

Where to begin? There are so many pages of documentation regarding this case
I honestly have only had time to briefly glance over some of it since I
have work to do. However,
given the information that I have obtained, and based on my own experience
in multiple
areas of the computer industry over the past years (I was a tech for a
small OEM for
a few years, then I went on to work for a prominent ISP,Earthlink , as a
technician, and
currently I am working for a midrange/mainframe broker) I certainly feel
that Microsoft is clearly
getting the short end of the stick so to speak.

I have no affiliation with Microsoft, nor am I receiving compensation of
any sort for voicing
my opinion in their favor.

What other product on the market is so open that the vast majority of
competitors products will function
on said product(s). Can you walk into a Ford dealer and ask for a Chevy
motor in your new ranger pickup
truck? Ok, how about all the onboard computers that control features such
as fuel injection systems, traction
control, etc? If you believe that Honda has superior electronics can you
ask for them in your Dodge? I think you'd
get laughed out of the dealership plain and simple.

Now lets take a look at other computer products on the market
as a comparison shall we?

If I purchase an SGI and want to run down to Best Buy to purchase the
latest accounting software to do my taxes
will it run on my machine? No. Ok how about if I go get a new video card
and more RAM, will it just drop right in
and will I be up and running in minutes? No. I would be forced into buying
proprietary applications AND hardware
if I wanted to add more functionality to my base machine... But I really
like the IRIX operating system, wont it
run on my PC? No. The same can be said about Sun Microsystems, IBM, and
even Macintosh (apple) to an extent. All of the
aforementioned systems are closed, proprietary systems that offer an
enduser little flexibility and very little

in the way of an upgrade path. I don see anyone screaming foul where the other company's are concerned.

Now an "industry standard" has been established. Obviously the bar has been set in terms of performance, flexibility,
and a user friendly interface. Is it Microsoft's fault that no other company has even come close to creating a product
that can compete on even ground? Do they owe a competitor anything? Should they be forced to fully reveal their API so
that other's can steal it, and tap into their bread and butter product? I personally, as well as many of my associates,
would answer a resounding NO! That's like forcing coke to disclose what their secret formula is and to go a step further,
include a can of Pepsi in every six-pack in the name of "what's good for the consumer". Please let products stand on their
merit instead of trying to make everyone "play nice and friendly". The world of big business isn't for the weak, and if a company
cannot stand the heat, they should look to get out of software development since its a very cut throat industry.

Surely you will get many email's from people with something at stake (IE: Financial gain if they can force their way
into the market by riding Microsofts coat tails into an industry instead of innovating new "must have" products) but
you must see them for what they truly are.

Sincerely,
Mike Prettyman